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March 19, 2020

Robert Kadlec
Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response (ASPR)
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20201

Assistant Secretary Kadlec,

Having spoken with many hospitals, doctors, health care providers, and emergency management coordinators across Iowa over the last week as the COVID-19 outbreak spread, I have heard concerns that my state will experience a dire shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) if we do not act now.

Our health providers require PPE that includes N95 masks, ventilators, gloves, gowns, shoe covers, hand sanitizer, toilet paper, and other essential basic supplies to address this outbreak.

I am requesting you provide these resources from the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS), which has PPE within your reserves. We need immediate assurances that supplies are forthcoming in order to properly protect Iowans and Americans.

The limited public supply of PPE available is hampering our ability to treat and respond to COVID-19 in Iowa and across the country. Proper equipment will ensure that we can transfer non-COVID-19 patients from hospitals, freeing up bed space. It will ensure that our health care workforce stays healthy and ready to respond. And it will bring peace of mind to every Iowan to know we are better prepared to handle this outbreak.

I ask you to approve Iowa's request for assistance immediately. Thank you for your assistance on this matter. This outbreak is the exact situation that the SNS is prepared to handle.



Cindy Axne
Member of Congress